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Secret Kissinger Travels to Paris Depicted in a Book

By HERBERT MITGANG

Some details of how Henry A. Kissinger managed to travel without publicity to negotiate with the Chinese and North Vietnamese in the early 1970's emerge in a new book, "Silent Missions," by Gen. Vernon A. Walters, who retired in 1976 as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the newspaper excerpts of Richard M. Nixon's "Memoirs," the former President recalls a talk with Mao Tse-tung about Mr. Kissinger's cleverness in keeping his trips to Paris and Peking secret, but there is no description of how these missions were achieved—and how at least one trip, in April 1970, almost became known.

In a recent interview and in his book, published by Doubleday & Company, General Walters talks of a midnight rescue with cloak-and-dagger and *cherchez-la-femme* overtones.

General Walters, who was a military attaché in Paris during the sensitive negotiations, had the job of covering up for Mr. Kissinger. The only American aware of the maneuverings was a secretary, Nancy Ouellette.

Pompidou Himself Was Channel

Neither Secretary of State William P. Rogers nor Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird knew of the trips, according to General Walters. But the French had such an expert intelligence service, including the monitoring of General Walters's movements, that they had to be let in on the plans at a high level.

President Georges Pompidou of France himself was the channel for keeping Mr. Kissinger's presence secret.

"He cooperated fully, and fortunately so, for on one occasion on April 3, 1970," General Walters says, "I arranged to bring Kissinger into a French airfield at Bourges in central France. At this airfield the French kept their KC-135 tankers. These aircraft are very similar to the VC-137 in which Kissinger traveled namely U. S. Air Force One."

But on this particular night in April, there was a technical complication that prevented Mr. Kissinger from landing at Bourges. General Walters took his prob-

lem to President Pompidou, who lent him his private Mystère 20, followed Air Force One to Frankfurt, West Germany, and then transferred Mr. Kissinger—his glasses off and coat collar rolled up—to the small French jet.

The Woman That Never Was

The French pilot, a Colonel Calderon, turned to General Walters and said, "Mon général, what am I going to tell the Germans? They know that this is the President of France's plane, flying in the middle of the night, without a flight plan, without any clearance, penetrating German airspace."

General Walters thought for a moment, and then said: "Tell them it involves a woman. They will believe it of the French and be discreet."

The pilot replied, "But what if Madame Pompidou finds out?"

General Walters replied that, if Madame Pompidou really did and suspected her husband of a rendezvous, he would tell her the real story.

Mr. Kissinger landed in President Pompidou's plane at an airport near Paris and was taken to General Walters's apartment at Neuilly.

Later General Walters asked the French pilot whether the Germans had ever pursued the matter. Indeed, they had, and Colonel Calderon told them with a wink that it involved a woman. The West German air attaché said he understood perfectly and had only one question, "Is she German?"

The Walters book was read by the C.I.A., but not changed. Mr. Kissinger is now writing his own memoirs for Little, Brown & Company.

MORI/CDF